

Sunday, October 26 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Chairman Powell,

As a consumer of broadcast television, electronics, and computer products, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to vote against the adoption of a "broadcast flag." I am gravely concerned that a broadcast flag regulation would restrict the way I enjoy television.

The digital television transition relies on convincing consumers of the benefits of switching to and buying digital television equipment. That transition will be far more palatable to me as a consumer if switching doesn't mean discarding my existing home network, buying new high-resolution displays, and finding room for yet another device in my living room. Please do not allow the MPAA and its allies to hinder the transition by making us buy special-purpose DTV devices that are more expensive and less valuable.

In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later, clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie, send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative, or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Mike Walker
507 Trinity
Austin, TX 78701

Sunday, October 26 2003

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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I hope the FCC has the courage and responsibility to stand against this effort to take away the rights of consumers. I know that in my case, if the programming I now watch had the "broadcast flag" on, I would probably only be able to watch 1/2 to 1/3 of the programming I currently do; perhaps less. I take care of a handicapped person at home, and being able to time-shift shows is a great asset, since much of the care involves being "on call" for help and assistance as needed. Also, I don't know who schedules the shows on the networks (broadcast and cable / satellite) but I always find that there are 2, 3, or 4 shows I like on all at the same time. I have had to have two VCRs recording, and watching the 3rd show on TV, at times, and at other times (sometimes even whole nights) there is absolutely nothing which interests me at all (then I can watch something on tape). I've seen online news articles about how much Chairman Powell likes his TiVo; I hope he preserves the opportunity for that product to exist with its current functionality or better, not worse. The broadcast flag would definitely be worse. I also think it would more than likely be defeated by programmers on the Internet; look at DVDs and eBooks. Then, the only people who would be denied fair-use rights would be those law-abiding consumers that can only obtain digital devices that obey the broadcast flag. I hope I don't have to tell my kids (which I plan to have about ten years from now) that back in my day, we could actually record something, keep it as long as we wanted to for personal use, and maybe even show it to a friend if we really liked the show or though it was especially entertaining.

Sincerely,

Johnathan Grant
1407 Schuler Dr.
Kokomo, IN 46901

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Sincerely,

Marc Daniel
119 e lawrence st
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

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Sincerely,

Andy Lange
138A West Atlantic Ave
Audubon, NJ 08106

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Caleb Paine
29056 Wildlife lane
Brooksville, FL 34602

Michael Gidding
12 Barnstable Road
Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Michael K. Powell:

Thousands of American consumers have already expressed their opposition to the FCC's adoption of a "broadcast flag". I am writing to join them. As a user of open-source software, adoption of the broadcast flag will mean I am unable to receive digital television broadcasts on my computer.

Adopting the broadcast flag will make the FCC stand for "Federal Computer Control" which is outside its proper role. It is not the FCC's place to effectively choose the software licenses or computer operating systems that consumers must use in order to watch digital television broadcast on their computers.

Additionally, adoption of the broadcast flag will harm innovation. Many users of open-source software are computer programmers and "tinkerers" who work to improve the software. Their contributions and constant innovation is what makes open-source software able to compete in the marketplace.

The broadcast flag rule advocated by the MPAA will ban open-source implementations of VSB and QAM modulators and demodulators, preventing open-source programmers from innovating in field of digital communications techniques used by television.

Most Americans assumed that when television became digital, viewers would be able to do more with television programming, not less. Without innovative new products and flexibility in the ways consumers are able to watch TV, consumers will be less inclined to invest in the equipment to view digital television. Therefore, the broadcast flag is likely to slow adoption of digital television in addition to making it illegal to watch digital television on a computer using open-source software. It is for these reasons I urge you to promote the digital television transition by opposing adoption of the broadcast flag.

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Sincerely,

Kristi L. Dickey
625 Chase Hammock Road
Merritt Island, FL 32953

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Regards, Tim Holliday

Sincerely,

Tim Holliday
38B Angell Court
Stanford, CA 94305

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445 12th Street, NW
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Jim Gradolph
1714 Brentwood Court
Hollister, CA 95023

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Sincerely,

Jonathan Marler
2600 Gracy Farms Ln Apt #633
Austin, TX 78758

Sunday, October 26 2003

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Powell,

I support the position stated below in the following paragraph. Experience has shown that "protections" don't stop illegal uses (crooks don't play by the rules anyways) and frustrate legitimate uses. It would be nice to see the government actually taking the side of the consumer and not big business

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Sincerely,

Douglas Andrews
186 Farm Street
Millis, MA 02054

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Sincerely,

Andrew Carra
2220 W. Homer, Apt. G.
Chicago, IL 60647

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Sincerely,

Bill Comisky
1732 W Rascher Ave
Chicago, IL 60640

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Chris Sandoval
6200 colina ln.
Austin, TX 78759

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Thank you,

-Brian Crowe

Sincerely,

Brian Crowe
912 Indiana Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Jeff Johnson
3512 Trails End Dr.
Medina, Ohio 44256

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Sincerely,

Jeff Johnson

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Sincerely,

Paul Forster
3695 Woolsey Road
Windsor, CA 95492

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445 12th Street, NW
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Sincerely,

Douglas L. Bloomquist
5951 Vista Loop
San Jose, CA 95124

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445 12th Street, NW
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In addition, I am very concerned about the fair-use implications of the broadcast flag. With today's technology, I can be more than a passive recipient of content -- I can modify, create, and participate. I can record TV to watch later; clip a small piece of TV and splice it into a home movie; send an email clip of my child's football game to a distant relative; or record a TV program onto a DVD and play it at my friend's apartment. The broadcast flag seems designed to remove this control and flexibility that I enjoy.

If the move to digital television does not make the public's viewing experience more enjoyable, flexible, and exciting, what compelling reason do I have as a consumer to buy new digital equipment? A prettier TV picture is hardly enough reason for me to dispense with all my current consumer electronics and computer equipment. As a citizen and consumer of broadcast television, I urge you to promote the digital transition by opposing the broadcast flag.

Sincerely,

Keith Robitaille
50 Pierce Street Unit 64
Plainville, CT 06062

Sunday, October 26 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell
445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

VIA FACSIMILE

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David M. Koester
2378 Sarthe Ct.
Maryland Heights, MO 63043

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Washington, DC 20554

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Andrey Pavlov
18571 Warren Ave
Irvine, CA 92612

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Washington, DC 20554

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Michael Welch
9 Cygnet Street, Level 1
Brighton, MA 02135

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Greg Samson
2604 SW 100th St
Seattle, WA 98146

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Sincerely,

Lynn Walton
4519 Parkwood Square
Niceville, FL 32578

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445 12th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Ryan Osborn
739 N High St
Columbus, OH 43215